

DOE Weekly Field Memo – December 30, 2009

From the Department of Education:

- Access to Child and Adult Abuse Registries: Update
- The Vermont Science Initiative: Educational Assessment in Science
- Save the Date: High School Transformation Best Practices in Action
- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Nomination Form for 2010

From the Department of Health:

- Medication Abuse Prevention for High School Students

Access to Child and Adult Abuse Registries: Update

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Headmasters

The Department recently updated its August 25, 2009 memo to superintendents, principals, and heads of school regarding educator reporting requirements and access to the child and adult abuse registries maintained by the Agency for Human Services (AHS). The update reflects changes in how to access the child and adult abuse registries, and encourages school districts to use AHS's automated system as the preferred method of accessing the registries. Please visit the Department's Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainpubs.html#reporting_requirements to download a revised copy of the memo.

Contact: Chris Sivret at (802) 828-3136 or christina.sivret@state.vt.us

The Vermont Science Initiative: Educational Assessment in Science

Audience: Education Teachers, K-8 Principals, Superintendents, & Curriculum Coordinators

The Vermont Science Initiative (VSI) is pleased to announce that the course, Educational Assessment in Science Education, will be offered this spring. This is a three-credit course that will take place during three Friday/Saturday sessions. Educational Assessment in Science Education will be offered at Johnson State College on: Feb 5, 6, March 5, 6, April 9, 10. Topics of validity and reliability, choosing appropriate assessments for a variety of purposes, creating valid classroom and district assessments, and using assessment data to inform instruction will be examined. This course is open to all K-8 teachers and can be applied to the new VSI Leadership Academy in Science. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#vsi_assessment_1 for more information.

Contact: Pat Fitzsimmons at (802) 828-0196 or pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us

Save the Date: High School Transformation Best Practices in Action

Audience: High School principals and educators

What: A regional conference for New England's high school educators to share success stories, exchange solutions, and build momentum for local and large-scale secondary transformation focused on preparing all students for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century.

When: Thursday and Friday, April 8–9, 2010

Where: Radisson Hotel, Nashua, New Hampshire

Who: High school teams from Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont engaged in secondary-school transformation. Visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html#nessc> for a conference flyer and a link to the conference Web page.

Contact: Carol Duley at (802) 828-3843 or carol.duley@state.vt.us

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Nomination Form for 2010

Audience: K-6 Principals and Educators

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is considered the nation's highest honor in mathematics and science teaching in the United States. The 2010 awards are limited to teachers of mathematics and science kindergarten through grade 6. Nominees must be full-time employees of the school or school district who have taught at least 5 years. For more information visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/mathematics.html#paemst.

The winner of the 2008 Presidential Award for Mathematics Teaching is Christa Duthie Fox of Charlotte Central School. Recognition activities for the Presidential Awards program will be held January 4 through

January 7, 2010, in Washington, D.C. The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be honoring highly qualified Mathematics and Science teachers of grades K- 6. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/awards.html#paemst> for more information. Contact: Kathy Renfrew at (802) 828-6561 or Kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

From the Department of Health:

Medication Abuse Prevention for High School Students

Audience: School Nurses, Educators, Student Assistance Providers

Free training sponsored by the Northern New England Poison Center with help from the Burlington Partnership for a Healthy Community and other Chittenden County substance abuse prevention coalitions. Potential audiences for this training include educators, law enforcement personnel, school nurses, coalition members, student assistant professionals and emergency responders. Help prevent high school medication abuse with this three-part training presented by Gayle Finkelstein of the Northern New England Poison Center:

- Poison 101 – Understand poison center services, poisoning data trends and poisoning-related first aid
- Medication Abuse Prevention for Adults – Learn about abuse trends and reasons for abuse, understand the dangers and discuss prevention strategies
- Medication Abuse Prevention for High School Students – A thorough review of three student lesson plans: Poison Prevention, Introduction to the Brain and Medication Abuse Prevention.

Trained partners will have access to adult and high school education kits housed at locations throughout the state. For more information, visit <http://www.nnepc.org>. Contact: Ray Coffey at (802) 878-6982 or ray@essexchips.org.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.